



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q55331

Toru FUJITA

Appln. No.: 09/369,424

Group Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No.: 6768

Examiner: Stephen M. Brinich

Filed: August 6, 1999

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD USING THE
SAME

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 10 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed
concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a
counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information
Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 9, 2004



2624
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SEP 10 2004
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing

concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-32713A discloses an image forming apparatus (method) for forming an image based on a half-tone data with a coloring agent, comprising: a gamma converter (tone correcting section) for applying a tone correction for improving a gamma characteristic of an image forming process with respect to an input tone level based on CMYK system (color system of the coloring agent); and a halftone processor B15 (half-toning section) for applying a half-toning with respect to the corrected tone level outputted from the gamma converter to output the half-tone data (cf., Paragraphs [0010], [0011], [0018] and [0026-0028]; and Fig. 1);

Japanese Patent Publication No. 3-271764A discloses that input levels 0-255 (8-bit data) are converted into output levels 0-1023 (10-bit data) at a gamma correction table (cf., Page 10, upper right column, line 1 through Page 11, upper left column, line 12; Table 4; and Figs. 4 and 14); and

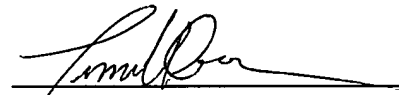
Japanese Patent Publication No 4-213470A discloses an image forming apparatus (method), comprising: a normal mode (usual printing operation); a check mode (test printing operation) for forming a test pattern (test image) for monitoring a tone reproduction characteristic (measurement of a gamma characteristic); a gamma judgment section 571 (correction information generating section) which measures an optical density of the test pattern

to generate a gamma conversion curve (tone correction information) by calculation. The gamma conversion curve is used in a gamma converter 53 to improve a gamma characteristic of the apparatus (cf., Paragraphs [0016]-[0032]; and Figs. 1-12).

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</u> <u>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/369,424
				Confirmation Number	6768
				Filing Date	August 6, 1999
				First Named Inventor	Toru FUJITA
				Art Unit	2624
				Examiner Name	Stephen M. Brinich
				Attorney Docket Number	Q55331
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ³ (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	10-32713	A	02-03-1998		No
		JP	3-271764	A	12-03-1991		No
		JP	4-213470	A	08-04-1992		No

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.